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# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“Weather is a great metaphor for life - sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad, and there's nothing much you can do about it but carry an umbrella.” ~Pepper Giardino***

Friday, June 13, 2008

Wabash Valley minimum-security offenders joined citizens, farmers, the Marines, and the National Guard this week to sandbag flooded areas. Crews worked to stem raging flood waters in Sullivan, Greene, Knox, Vigo, Daviess, and Gibson Counties.

Correctional Industrial Facility held an Inside/Out Dads picnic where 65 children and 35 fathers attended.

Indiana State Prison's education department sponsored the first annual Poets Behind Bars event. There were 20 “inside poets” who shared their work, 10 “outside” poets who shared their work, and other guests, including local author Harry Mark Petrakis.

Branchville Correctional Facility sent an outside work crew to Knox County for assistance with the rising flood waters. 21 offenders and 2 officers spent more than 12 hours preparing sandbags and assisting in the disaster relief.

In conjunction with DOC's special “clean up initiative” this week, extra landscaping efforts were made by teams of students and staff at Camp Summit in an effort to spruce up the facility via donations of shrubs and additional flowers.

The Westville Correctional Facility PLUS Program donated \$400 to the Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (INVOAD) fund to provide relief to those afflicted by last week's flooding in Indiana.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held its first American Welding Society (AWS) certification test for students who recently graduated from the welding program. Students successfully completing the welding class earn 18 credit hours with Ivy Tech.

Pendleton Correctional Facility received a generous donation of approximately 60 bicycles for the “Shifting Gears” operation from a local man who privately collects and restores bicycles for donation to charitable organizations.

Offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison sewed more than 350 bags for the Church World Service. The bags will be filled by the Church World volunteers, and donated to help provide school kits to children of many states.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility offender work crews assisted local communities of Prince's Lake, Edinburgh, and Columbus, Indiana during the recent storms that swept across the area. Crews helped clear downed trees, remove debris, and sandbagged.

Rockville Correctional Facility's Lions International Eye Glass Re-cycle Operation celebrated the completion of 5,526,500 pairs of re-cycled eye-glasses since 1995 this week. Lions District Governor Ron Spivey, accompanied by several members of the Clinton Lions Club, provided cake and ice cream for the celebration.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility sent a work crew to the Morgan County Fairgrounds to help fill and place sandbags in potential floodplains. The crew worked alongside civilians as they attempted to stem rising waters and clean up the aftermath.

Miami Correctional Facility held two separate graduation ceremonies with 455 graduates completing educational programs. More than 240 offenders went through the ceremony with more than 240 family members in attendance.

The Wabash Valley PLUS unit helped provide flood relief, donating \$500 to the Salvation Army's Indiana Headquarters. Over 60 PLUS made quilts will be given to the local Emergency Management Agency.

Pendleton Correctional Facility provided approximately twenty 20 level one offenders to assist with flood damage clean-up efforts in Morgan County.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recognized CMS Administrators Monica Speckman, HCA and Crystal Hottman, DON for receiving the CMS Star Health Services Administrator Award and the CMS Star Director of Nursing Award, respectively.

PEN Products staff and offender workers have filled 5 gallon bladders with water for Homeland Security for distribution to flood victims. PEN drivers have delivered water and toilet tissue, and PEN is donating warehouse space to help in the effort.

A screen replication of a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe was on display during Catholic services at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility. The painting depicts the Virgin Mary and the Immaculate Conception and is a Mexican cultural symbol.

The Indiana Women's Prison was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections at the American Correctional Association Awards Ceremony with the score of 100 % Mandatory and 98% Non-Mandatory standards.